

Media consolidation is antithetical to the concept of a free press. These corporate entities which run such conglomerates such as Sinclair Broadcasting are able to stifle local opinions and put forth only what they want the public to view. Sinclair's airing of the sham "documentary" "Stolen Honor" attacking presidential candidate John Kerry for 90 minutes only days before the election is just one of those abuses that can and will occur.

Broadcasters such as Sinclair use the public airwaves free of charge, and are obligated by law to serve the public interest. Unfortunately, when large companies control the airwaves, they swing the balance of reporting to the benefit of their bottom line and not for participatory democracy with a myriad of viewpoints. It stifles local opinion and promotes its viewpoint instead.

"Stolen Honor" also applies to the current weakening of media ownership rules. These rules need to be strengthened and the license renewal process needs to have teeth rather than a postcard that is rubberstamped "approved." Thank you.